

CLAIMS

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An improved tennis ball comprising:
a ball having a felted outer surface; and
a marking agent dispersed within the felted outer surface, said marking agent leaving a temporarily visible mark upon a surface struck by the ball.
2. The improved tennis ball of claim 1 wherein the marking agent is microencapsulated.
3. The improved tennis ball of claim 1 wherein the marking agent is a volatile solid.
4. The improved tennis ball of claim 1 wherein the marking agent is a volatile liquid.
5. A method of revealing a contact location comprising:
encapsulating a marking agent in microcapsules, the marking agent leaving a temporarily visible mark when released from the microcapsules;
applying the microencapsulated marking agent to a first object;
contacting the first object with a second object;
observing presence of the marking agent on the second object.
6. The method of claim 5 wherein the marking agent is a volatile solid.
7. The method of claim 5 wherein the marking agent is a volatile liquid.
8. The method of claim 5 wherein the microcapsules rupture above a predetermined force threshold.
9. The method of claim 5 wherein a first marking agent is encapsulated in microcapsules that rupture above a first predetermined force threshold and a second marking agent is encapsulated in microcapsules that rupture above a second predetermined force threshold and wherein both the microencapsulated first marking agent and the microencapsulated second marking agent are applied to the first object.
10. The method of claim 9 wherein the first and second marking agents have different colors.
11. The method of claim 5 wherein the microcapsules spontaneously release the marking agent after a predetermined period of time.